

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-4 with the following clean version of amended claims 1-4:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for fastening suspenders to a garment, comprising:

a suspender fastener including a downwardly slanting substantially planar face plate with an actuating cam face plate member having a raised hip depending cam member portion for urging downwardly onto at least one first clamping member, such that the at least one first clamping member is clamped into place against at least one second back plate member, said first clamping member including an upwardly extending cam member and also having a [needle-like] needle post attached thereto extending towards said at least one second back plate member in a complementary relation;

said at least one second back plate member being pivotally attached to the at least one first clamping member by means of opposed side projections which are confined within openings in flanges extending upwardly from the at least one second back plate member, said at least one second back plate member having an opening therein for receiving the [needle-like] needle post attached to the at least one first member and said at least one second back plate member being planar and having a plane;

an actuating cam member [including a downwardly slanting face plate and an integral raised hip depending cam section adjacent to the first member, and said cam member being] is pivotally attached to the second back plate member by means of opposed side projections which are confined within the openings of the flanges of the second back plate member, said slanting actuating cam member exerting a sufficient force to maintain the suspender fastener in a closed position in operation;

said at least one first clamping member and at least one second back plate members having securement fixtures attached thereto on the surfaces facing one another, and

said securement fixtures having complementary male and female portions which come together and cooperate when in a closed position; and

said [needle-like] needle post being attached to the first member in a complementary relation to the opening in the second back plate member, said opening extending through the securement fixture attached to the second back plate member, such that when the suspender fastener is in a closed position the post remains attached to the first member, extends through both the complementary plates, and further extends through the garment being supported, is received by the opening in the second back plate member, whereby the fabric of the garment being supported is substantially held fixed.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one second back plate member is pivotally connected to the at least one first clamping member by an actuating cam member pivotally attached to said at least one first clamping member over said at least one second back plate member as movable between a closed position in which both members contact and urge the at least one second back plate member against the at least one first clamping member to close the suspender fastener, and an open position in which the suspender fastener is released to permit removal of the suspender fastener from the garment being supported.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least two posts and at least [two reinforcements] securement fixtures spaced apart in order to provide more support over a broader area of the fabric of the garment being supported.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the downwardly slanting face plate is slanting at an angle of from about 1° to about 40° with respect to the plane of the second back plate member.